



## Fallen Correctional Officer to be Honored at Memorial Service in Indianapolis Tomorrow

*For immediate release*

Indianapolis, IN (September 17, 2013) – Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) Officer Timothy Betts, a 15-year veteran who died in the line of duty at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) in August 2012, will be honored tomorrow during a memorial service in Indianapolis. The ceremony will take place on Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 7:00 pm at the Indiana Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters Memorial on the west side of the Indiana State Capitol. The Indiana Fraternal Order of Police will honor officers who have died in the line of duty, their families, the departments they served and the sacrifices they have made.

Officer Betts, after responding to a cell house emergency, suffered a fatal heart attack while escorting an offender to segregation on August 26, 2012. The Greene County native's name will be etched for eternity into the granite walls of the memorial wall paying tribute to the fallen. Wabash Valley staff and Officer Betts' family members will be in attendance for the special ceremony. The name of Britney Meux, a Lake County Corrections Officer, will also be added.



*Officer Timothy Betts*

The WVCF Honor Guard will take part in the program. A uniformed officer will stand guard adjacent to a Department of Correction vehicle with an IDOC hat and wreath with the name of Officer Betts adorning the vehicle during the ceremony.

This past May, Officer Timothy Betts' name was added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington D.C. The national memorial includes the names of over 19,000 officers who died in the line of duty. Officer Betts name was among the 321 officers who were added to the memorial wall this year.

***About the Indiana Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters Memorial***

Due to the efforts of the Indiana Department of Correction, the Indiana Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters Memorial now includes a new lighting system. A check for \$8,800 that was raised by IDOC facilities for the renovation project will be presented prior to the memorial service. The project contractor, Horner Lighting Group, donated an additional \$3,000 in materials to finish the work in time for the ceremony. The custom design for the memorial includes both a red and blue LED lighting scheme.

In June of 2000, Governor Frank O'Bannon set aside One Million Dollars from the 'Build Indiana Fund' for a Statewide Memorial to be built that would honor all Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters who have died in the line of duty. The Indiana Law Enforcement and Firefighters Memorial was dedicated June 6, 2001 by Governor Frank O'Bannon. The Memorial honors all public safety personnel who have died in the line of duty in the State of Indiana. Over 700 names are forever etched into the walls of this memorial; dating back to the first recorded death in 1824. Each year a service is held by the Indiana Fraternal Order of Police and the Professional Firefighters Union of Indiana to honor and remember these officers and firefighters.

The Indiana Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters Memorial is located behind the West side of the Indiana State capitol, at the corner of Robert D. Orr Plaza and North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will take place in the Government Center, South Building, Auditorium.

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